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# New Buffalo Times

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PHOTO ARIANNA WURZEL AND ALYVIA WOZNIAK WITH DAISY THE GOAT BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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# Three Oaks Village Council considers Watkins upgrades

BY THERESE DONNELLY

While no decisions have been made yet, the Three Oaks Village Council heard potential ideas for additions at Chamberlain Path at their Wednesday, Aug. 14, meeting.

Earlier in the year, the council approved the Parks Committee's plan to install a rain garden on the lot immediately adjacent to Village Hall, between Generations Drive and North Elm Street. In a brief presentation during the council's Aug. 14 meeting, Julie Strating of Changemakers Studio in Bridgman explained possible amenities could include a space for an open-air market, public restrooms and an entertainment venue.

Strating noted there would still need to be community engagement, and any plans would most likely be completed in phases. She told the council all the features identified by the Parks Committee aligned with the Village's Master Plan.

Business owner Colleen Froehlich expressed concern that the location would not have space for vendors to unload for market stalls, and suggested other village parks could better accommodate some of the plans.

Marco Chavarry of the Downtown Development Authority clarified that no public parking would be lost to the proposed additions.

There was no matter for the council to make on the Chamberlain plans, but they did approve a purchase agreement to take ownership of the Three Oaks Community Garden currently owned by Three Oaks Township. Village Manager Dan Faulkner said the township board had approved the agreement earlier in the week at their own meeting.

The council approved the purchase of three plots for a total of $25,000. Village President Richard Smith said the village still needed to meet with American Electric Power to determine the location of an easement for power lines. He said there was a possibility of shifting the garden footprint south, allowing the lines to run on the north end.

Dan Peterson of The Pokagon Fund reminded the council there is an easement south of the garden for parking, but Smith said if the garden is flipped, it would still not encroach on the easement.

Jim Morris of Surf Internet, a regional internet provider, gave the council a brief description of his company's plans to bring fiber internet service to the village. He said the service will offer fast, reliable service with no slow-down during peak use.

As part of the plan, the State of Michigan requires a bi-lateral permit before work begins. The council approved the permit request, with Faulkner telling the council the new service will not affect the village's franchise fees from Comcast, which is for television service only.

Morris said the fiber will be added in phases over three to six months.

The council tabled decisions on the Swan Song lift station easement and a rezoning request for 9 West Linden, in order to get more information on both items.

Wightman and Associates and the Vvllage posted the sidewalk improvement bid on their websites, with bids scheduled to be opened Aug.19.

Journeyman Distillery requested permission to close a portion of Generations Drive on Oct. 12 for their annual Islay's Barrel Beer Fest at the distillery at 109 Generations Drive.

Trick or treating in the village will take place Saturday, Oct. 26, from 4 to 6 p.m. The village traditionally schedules trick or treat for the Saturday closest to Halloween. Smith noted scheduling the early date avoided having trick or treating in November.

In preparation of the 35th anniversary of the release of the movie "Prancer," the council authorized a grant request to the Pokagon Fund for Prancer Con to take place Dec. 14 and 15. The John Hancock movie was set in Three Oaks, with exteriors filmed in Three Oaks and surrounding areas.

The council accepted resignation letters from two board members: Lindsey Clements of the Park and Recreation Board and Julie Schaffer from the Downtown Development Authority. On Smith's recommendation, the council appointed Pat Mullins to complete Schaffer's term and Brian Overley to complete Clements' term.

Three Oaks Makers and Merchants has dissolved, so the council approved a motion to replace a link on the village website to the group's website with a link to Stroll Three Oaks.

The council approved the purchase of 16 steel trash cans totaling $8,464 to be placed throughout the village. The council had previously discussed using barrels from Journeyman, but councilmember Lois Jones explained the village was unable to find inserts that would fit.

Work on identifying potential lead water lines is proceeding. Faulkner said Plummers Environmental Services is visiting identified properties to visually inspect lines entering the home. Faulkner said if residents are not comfortable allowing workers into their homes, or have questioners, they may contact the Village office at 269-756-9221. Residents whose homes have been identified should receive a letter and door hanger.

The village must provide the state with a report in October. Smith said it is unclear what the penalties for missing the deadline would be, but identifying lead lines is important in case problems occur in the future.

Faulkner said the Three Oaks Baseball Association is having trouble finding volunteers to mow the fields. He said he is trying to help find an arrangement.

***I'm too paranoid for threats ...*** — *Dino N. Fatouros*

# Local Government Meetings

## New Buffalo Times

**Democracy Requires Transparency**

**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO**
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
**CITY COUNCIL**
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD**
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
**SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY**
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
**NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY**
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD**
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP**
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD**
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
**THREE OAKS**
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
**GRAND BEACH**
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
**MICHIANA**
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

# Council looks at sewer situation

BY THERESE DONNELLY

To help explain increased water rates, the New Buffalo City Council included a presentation on the city's sewer system during their Aug.19 regular meeting.

A prerecorded report noted sewer financial issues with the sewer system came from multiple sources. The city faced penalties from the Galien River Sanitary District due to extremely high levels of lake and rainwater entering the system, and many residences were undercharged for the water services receive.

The report also stated many parts of the system have surpassed their recommended lifespan, with some parts estimated to be 80 years old.

Water rates have been increased to cover operating costs, and the report stated the city will seek new bonds to help keep rates under control.

Part of the effort to stem sewer costs sewer cleaning and televising services provided by two companies. City Manager Darwin Watson told the council that the bid process divided the city into four sections and based on the bids received he recommended Taplin Group Environmental Services for the first and second quadrants, and Plummer's Environmental Services for the third and fourth quadrants. The total for the two bids is $237,892.50.

In addition to cleaning the system-something Watson said had not been done during his tenure as manager-the CCTV footage would help identify any needed repairs and help locate where lake and ground water are infiltrating the system.

Councilmember Brian Flanagan asked if there would be additional expenses related to the project. Watson said there could be, depending on what issues are uncovered.

During the meeting the council also had the first reading of a proposed amendment to Chapter 11 of the Zoning Ordinance, addressing short-term rental restrictions. Watson explained that the initial ordinance, enacted in May 2021, needed to be modified to better address the situation. The amendment gives the city the right to revoke a short-term rental permit if a property has three separate violations on three separate days within a 36-month period. The violations may involve the property owner, agent, an occupant or guest.

Mayor John Humphrey explained the multiple complaints or violations relating to a single party would be counted as one incident for purposes of the ordinance.

Additionally, the council had the second reading of an ordinance to restate the zoning ordinance, including the zoning map. Humphrey explained in completing the new zoning ordinance had led to the "bittersweet revelation" that the city needed to dissolve the Zoning Board of Appeals and put the ZBA responsibilities on the City Council.

Humphrey told those attending the meeting that some ZBA members have not followed the correct process, and the city needed to give the council decision-making power to protect the city from issues.

Humphrey added that the city can reinstate the ZBA at a future date.

Councilmember Mark Roberts added that the ZBA's purpose is to serve as a "safety valve" to protect the city from a leak.

The annual Halloween parade is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 27, starting at 3 p.m., with trick or treat to follow from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Parade organizer Trisha Bowden, who took over the tradition begun by Bonnie Keefer in 1975, said Ryan and Regan Kumpf will take over organizing the parade when she leaves the area.

"It's a great opportunity to have a great afternoon," she said.

The City of New Buffalo has been considering a joint fire authority with New Buffalo Township, Chikaming Township and Three Oaks Township. As part of the process, the city has entered a legal services agreement with the firm Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman and Koches to advise them. The firm specializes in township law and represents various townships and villages in Michigan. Costs for the firm will be split between the four municipalities.

Humphrey noted the agreement is strictly for legal guidance, and no decision has been made regarding the possible interlocal agreement.

As part of a settlement agreement regarding a boat slip at South Cove Condominiums with sediment from a city drain, the city purchased the boat slip and remediated the problem. After two rounds of bids, the council accepted a bid of $66,900 from Jon Huston, who submitted the only bid in the second round.

At the recommendation of Watson, the council approved a new building permit fee schedule, effective Sept. 1, 2024. Watson explained the increase is necessary to cover costs associated with issuing permits and providing services or improvements. Flanagan noted the council approved new fee schedules at a previous meeting, but Watson said building permits were not part of that motion.

Edward and Sarah Zeismer, owners of lots at 500 S. Jameson and 501 S. Jameson, requested a street vacation for a platted portion of Jameson in order

***The person who has lived the most is not the one with the most years but the one with the richest experiences.*** — *Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

to make the lots buildable. The portion of platted street dead ends due to the CSX rail, but Watson told the council it includes underground utilities and the city would be required looping lines.

Humphrey said he did want to encourage more residential development, and Jameson was one of the few remaining available lots. He said he wanted to visit the location before going further.

Addressing the council during public comment, Glenn Logan, president of the Moorings Association, said the recent dredging left the channel as shallow as six feet in some areas and no sounding reached the channel's previous depth of 15 feet. Watson said he would need to check the contract to see what was required.

Logan also said people, including young children, continue to swim in the federal channel. He urged the city to take stronger action to prevent serious injury.

"Whatever it takes, the Moorings is willing to do," he told the council. "Someone is going to get killed."

Logan said he had recently learned the Coast Guard will not be closing its station in Michigan City, Ind., but will have a limited presence.

Lifeguard Committee member Nora Howe was unable to attend the council meeting, so Deb Schmidt read a letter from Howe thanking city officials for supporting the lifeguard program and urging extending safety measures, including the flag system and daily water conditions, into September.

Howe also noted the city initiated a $500 fine for people who enter the water at the public beach during double red flag conditions, but there needed to be more power to enforce the fines.

Berrien County Prosecuting Attorney Amy Byrd introduced herself to the council and stated she is running for the position after being appointed to complete Steve Pierangeli's term. Byrd, a Berrien County native, has 16 years of experience in the prosecutor's office

Before adjournment, Watson said there will be a large-item pick up in the city Sept. 25. The city will post more details on what items will be accepted.

A crowd gathers at the Transient Marina for live music

Ryne Bowen performs

# Guests enjoy a "Marina Monday' in New Buffalo

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

**Visitors to New Buffalo's Marina Transient Park enjoyed the music of Ryne Bowen Music as part of the New Buffalo Business Association's Marina Monday Music series Aug. 19.**

**Visitors relaxed on a blanket or chair, grabbed their favorite bites and enjoyed the music against a lakeview and sunset backdrop.**

**Michael Esposito will be the featured musician at the last Marina Monday, which will take place from 7-9 p.m. Aug. 26.**

The crowd enjoys music at the Transient Marina

## RIVER RAISIN RAGTIME REVUE CONCERT TO BENEFIT SCHOOL OF AMERICAN MUSIC

The River Raisin Ragtime Revue (R4) will present its Southwest Michigan premiere concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6, at The Acorn, 107 Generations Dr., in Three Oaks, as a benefit for the nonprofit School of American Music.

The School of American Music is passionate about bringing R4 to the community because:

- They are A-list classically-trained musicians from the Detroit Symphony and other performance groups.
- R4 is dedicated to researching and preserving authentic ragtime — one of America's most important musical styles. For examples, see www.ragtimeband.org/video-gallery/.
- Ragtime music is quintessentially American. We are the School of American Music. It's a sublime match.
- Not only are they great performers, they are great storytellers. You'll learn a lot from an R4 concert.

The *St. Louis Dispatch* described ragtime as "a veritable call of the wild, which mightily stirred the pulses of city-bred people" in 1897. To stir your pulse to the call of the wild of the River Raisin Ragtime Revue, get your tickets at www.acornlive.org/events/raisin-river-09-06-24/. Tickets are $100 plus fees.

In addition to the concert at The Acorn, River Valley School District students will ride by bus to The Acorn that afternoon to enjoy a River Raisin Ragtime Revue student workshop on the history and performance of ragtime music, supported by a generous grant from Upton Foundation.

To learn more about River Raisin Ragtime Revue, visit www.ragtimeband.org. To learn more about ragtime music, visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com/publications.

For more information, please contact School of American Music at 269-409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or visit School of American Music on Facebook or the www.schoolofamericanmusic.com. — STAFF REPORTS

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# County switching emergency alert system to phone-style warning system

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Soon, sirens will no longer be activated in the event of severe weather in New Buffalo Township.

Fire chief Jamie Flick said at the New Buffalo Township Board's Monday, Aug. 19, meeting that the Berrien County Dispatch Center is unable to set those sirens off when they're weather alerts and requires one of the city's firefighter to be at the station or "be in proximity to the siren to make sure it sets off."

Calling it an "antiquated system," Flick said the sirens will be turned off for weather alerts.

Flick said that there will be a link on the township's website and Facebook to sign up for weather alerts through the county's IPAWS (FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System) or B-WARN! warning systems.

Flick said that, next to sirens used in the area of Andrews University and the city or township of Niles, both the city and township of New Buffalo were the only municipalities in the county still using them.

Board members approved text amendments in the zoning ordinance regarding accessory uses, buildings and structures along with adding additions to the regulated uses table pertaining to manufactured housing and mobile home parks.

The elimination of the assistant treasurer position, with the deputy treasurer to assume any duties assigned to the assistant treasurer and to keep the same hours and rate of pay and benefits, was approved.

The following wage increases, effective Nov. 1, were approved for election workers: election inspector, $16 an hour; chair, $21 an hour and receiving board, $25 an hour.

Updates to the preliminary construction and utility procedures and policy and the adoption of related utilities escrow affidavit were approved.

A six-year agreement, from Jan. 1, 2024, to Dec. 31, 2029, with Berrien County for access to the EagleView property program, with annual fee of $1,000, was approved. New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit said that the program will give "much better property information" and will give assessors more of an angle view, almost 3-D, of properties.

Outdoor assembly permits were approved for the following establishments: Seedz Brewery, with the reduction of the permit fee to $1,000 due to proceeds from the event going to charity, from noon to 10 p.m. and to URB from 9 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. Sept. 17.

An agreement with Kruggle Lawton CPA for auditing services for the 2023 -2024 fiscal year for $19,500 was approved.

Preliminary approvals of SLUs for the operation of adult use marihuana facilities were granted to Newco Design Build at 19001 U.S. 12 and Brian Toma at 19393 U.S. 12.

A quote from Etna Supply for $71,955 for radio read water meters, was approved.

Before moving into Closed Session, Heit gave the following update on the lawsuit between the villages of Grand Beach and Michiana and the township regarding the township's Public Safety Special Assessment District (SAD):

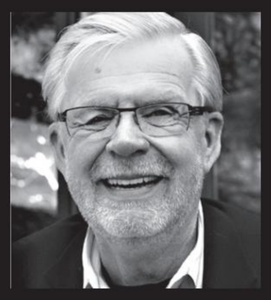
"On Aug. 1, the Michigan Court of Appeals found "in favor of New Buffalo Township and remanded the case to the Circuit Court to enter summary disposition on the township's behalf."

"The Court held that the villages lacked jurisdiction to file their claim in the Circuit Court because the Michigan Tax Tribunal had exclusive original jurisdiction," she said.

"Therefore, because the Circuit Court lacked the authority to bind the parties with respect to the substance of the dispute (of which the Circuit Court Judge found in favor of New Buffalo Township), the Court of Appeals remanded the case to the Circuit Court to enter summary disposition in favor of New Buffalo Township on the basis that jurisdiction belonged to the Tax Tribunal."

# SPORTS

## From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Watching the Bears play the Bengals in a meaningless preseason game Saturday has caused my cup to runneth over with optimism.

In my long life as a Chicago sports fan, I have been positive that my city's teams were often better than the experts thought they were, but most of the time I was wrong. That does make sense I guess. After all, they are the experts and I'm just a fan, but we know that the experts aren't always right.

This season, the Bears are picked by many to be at, or near, the bottom of their division. While I will admit that the Lions and the Packers have very good teams, and the Vikings are always good, this is a different Bears team they will be dealing with.

The experts like the Bears this year, just not as much as their division rivals. The two biggest reasons they feel the Bears will fall short this season are they are counting on a rookie quarterback and they need another defensive end. In the three preseason games so far, I couldn't disagree more.

The Bears have soundly beaten the Texans, Bills, and Bengals, all of whom were playoff teams last season. Offensively, the biggest reason they have looked so good is the play of their rookie quarterback.

Caleb Williams looks to be one of a kind. He has such poise and command, more than any Bear quarterback I have ever seen. From just three preseason games, I'm sure Williams will almost immediately be the best Bear quarterback ever.

I was a fan of Justin Fields, the man Caleb replaced, but there really is no comparison. The decision to draft Williams and move on from Fields will allow the Bears to be a playoff team for the foreseeable future.

On the defensive side of the ball, things look just as encouraging. The supposed weak spot, the right defensive end, is being manned by a committee that includes rookie Austin Booker. Booker has been fabulous and the Bears haven't allowed a touchdown in the last nine quarters. The defensive backfield and linebackers are all top notch which allows the defensive line a little more time to make plays.

This is probably a little over optimistic, but I think the Bears have a chance to be participating in the Super Bowl as early as this season. I didn't even mention the upgraded coaching staff. Last year, the two coordinators lacked imagination, and in my opinion, were often out coached. The new coaches seem to be so much better during the game and teaching during practices.

The architect of all of this is Ryan Poles who doesn't get everything right, but he sure doesn't miss very often. Just a couple more weeks and this historic season will begin.

Abraham Lincoln said, "I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

***The animals that we eat get their protein from plants. So we're eating the protein that they're eating from the plants.*** *— Wilson Chandler*

# Area delegate at Democratic National Convention in Chicago

BY STAN MADDUX

An area delegate, who attended the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, feels his party from Vice-President Kamala Harris running for president has a better chance at competing in republican dominated Indiana.

Shaw Friedman, a longtime attorney from La Porte, was one of close to 90 delegates for the party from Indiana at the four day convention, which ended the night of Thursday, August 22.

Friedman said Harris has noticeably energized the party after president Joe Biden chose not to seek a second term and recommended Harris to replace him as the party's nominee.

Harris has also closed the gap with republican nominee, former president Donald Trump, in the nationwide polls.

Friedman, who was once the La Porte County Democratic Party Chairman, said he believes the energy Harris has brought to the campaign will carry over to democrats running for governor and other state offices.

"There's a feeling among Indiana delegates that it's certainly going to help our situation statewide. There's a sense that at least we've become competitive. That's all you want to be is just be in the hunt," he said.

Friedman said he still expects a very close outcome in the November 5 election between Harris and Trump

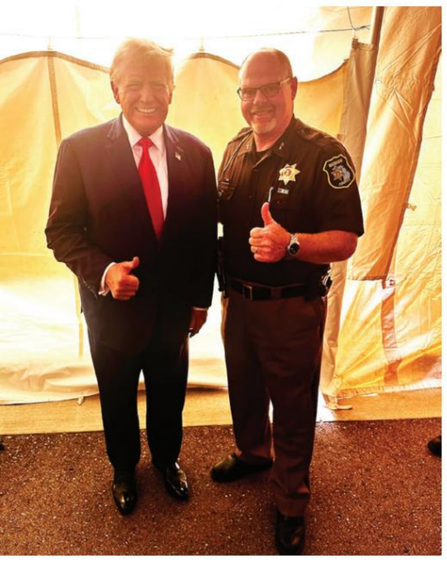
Friedman has been a delegate representing the northern third of Indiana for close to four years.

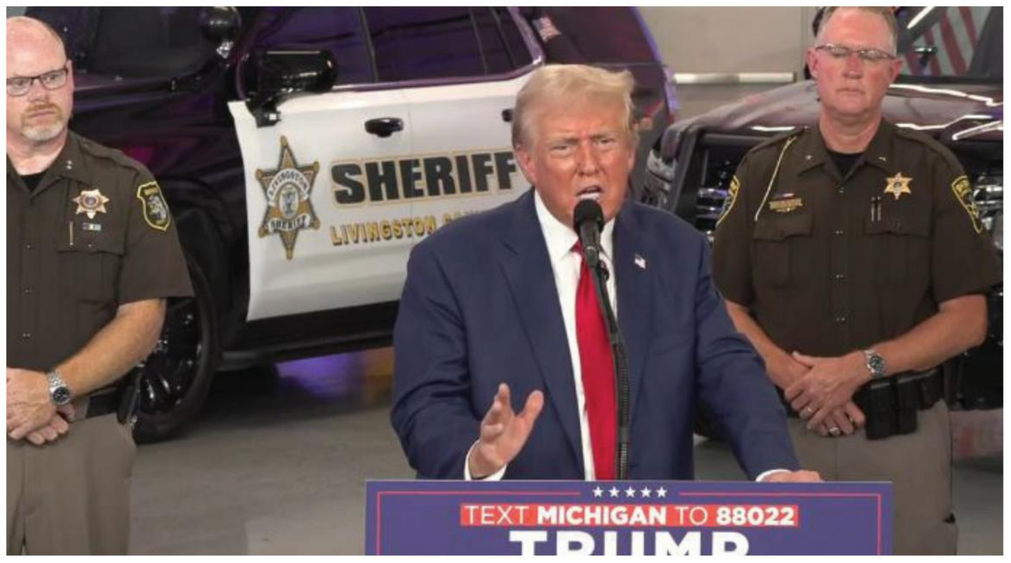
Among the famous democrats Friedman rubbed elbows with at the convention included former U.S. Congressman Joe Donnelly of Granger, Indiana, and actor Sean Astin, who played the lead role in the movie "Rudy."

He portrayed Rudy Ruettiger, who made the University of Notre Dame football team as a walk-on in the 1970's, but he never played until the final seconds of his last game.

Ruettiger made a tackle just before time ran out on the clock.

The convention was held at the United Center, the home of the Chicago Bulls and Chicago Blackhawks.






# Sheriff part of border security talk with Trump

BY STAN MADDUX

The Berrien County Sheriff was part of a law enforcement discussion about the negative impact the open border at Mexico is having locally with former president and current presidential candidate Donald Trump.

Chuck Heit, along with sheriffs throughout Michigan, were invited to express their concerns about the lack of border security with Trump during a closed-door session Tuesday, Aug. 20, at the Livingston County Sheriff's Office in the southeast part of the state.

Heit said he made the three hour drive with a few other sheriffs from the area.

"Not that many people probably get to speak or shake the hands of either a current or former president. It was an honor to get that opportunity," he said.

Like many areas nationwide, Heit said the biggest problem in Berrien County has been a noticeable increase in the amount of overdose deaths from fentanyl and methamphetamine winding up here from Mexico.

He said some of the other sheriffs in their meeting with Trump revealed acts of violence in their respective communities linked to migrants.

Heit said his other concerns include potential safety threats here in the future from migrants, especially those whose identifies might not be known.

"Obviously, our issue is what can be done to secure the border. In Michigan, we see the effects," he said.

Heit said Trump also shared what he did as president to secure the border and revealed many of those policies will be put back into place if he's elected again in November.

"I can't control what happens at the border. So, I will always take an opportunity to speak with someone who may be able to in the future. If the current president wanted to meet, we would be welcome to give our opinions about the lack of security at the southern border and how that's effecting counties all across the United States," he said.

After their discussion, Trump discussed his well-known tough stance on border security during a press conference.

Heit, who stood beside and slightly behind Trump during the press conference, wound up in some of the televised and news print images of the former president.

He was also part of a similar discussion and media event with Trump a few months ago in Grand Rapids.

"There's been some seizures of some big quantities of fentanyl that have come across. Unfortunately, it doesn't take a large amount to cause an overdose death," he said.

Heit took over as sheriff on Jan. 1 when appointed to replace the retired Paul Bailey.

Previously, Heit was the Berrien County undersheriff for 21 years after serving three years as police chief in New Buffalo.

Heit, who won the Republican primary for sheriff, is seeking his first four-year term in November against independent candidate Al DiBrito.

No Democrat filed to seek the office.

Heit, a 1987 graduate of New Buffalo High School, still resides in New Buffalo.

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. MARY OF THE LAKE RECEIVES TOP AWARD

Knights of Columbus St. Mary of the Lake Council 14366 in New Buffalo was awarded the distinction of Star Council, the international organization's top honor for local councils.

The Star Council Award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of growing membership, promoting Knights of Columbus insurance benefits, sponsoring Catholic faith formation programs and volunteering time through service-oriented activities.

Jeff Zochalski, Grand Knight, said he's humbled and honored to receive this award on behalf of the works of his fellow Knights.

"Our council continues to support the community to help make the world a better place. We support food pantries, women's and pregnancy centers, food packing events for those in need as well as orphanages and the intellectually disabled. Our next event, a pancake breakfast to support these charities, will be Sunday, Sept. 1, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Mary of the Lake, 718 W. Buffalo Street, New Buffalo, MI, 49117," he said.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See.

For information on joining the Knights of Columbus, contact local membership director Rich Wiet, md14366@mikofc.org, or Jeff at gk14366@mikofc.org

The Knights of Columbus is one of the world's leading fraternal and service organizations with over 2 million members in more than 16,000 parish-based councils.

To learn more, please visit them at www.kofc.org.

— STAFF REPORTS

# HIKERS PLAN OUTING AT ST. PATRICK'S COUNTRY PARK

The Harbor Country Hikers will visit St. Patrick's County Park in South Bend, Indiana, for the first time Saturday, Aug. 31.

The hike begins at 10 a.m. Jan McGowan, a St. Joseph County (Indiana) naturalist, will lead the hike and point out the park's rich natural and human history.

The park is nearly 400 acres in extent and offers approximately six miles of hiking trails through wooded areas, fields and along the picturesque St. Joseph River. Park amenities include a boat ramp, fishing pier, picnic sites, shelters, playground equipment, horseshoe pits and volleyball nets.

This hike will be 2-3 miles long and is rated moderately physically difficult with stairs and rolling hills. Those who attend are urged to wear long pants, a sun hat, sturdy shoes or boots and insect repellent, and to bring plenty of water. Although membership is encouraged, all are welcome to attend.

For more information, including driving directions, visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or the hikers' Facebook page.

— STAFF REPORTS

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# Riders form a 'partnership' with horses at youth fair

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

There were still about two and a half days left of the Berrien County Youth Fair, and Allison Kirk already had a showcase of ribbons on display in the area of the stable for the River Valley Wranglers that was reserved for her 12-year-old horse, Lucy.

On Sunday, she and Lucy won the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship. On Monday, the pair received third in their class for Halter. They "had a good go with showmanship" when they got first in class, third in the championship and fifth place overall.

"On Wednesday, which was English, we cleaned our classes and got Championship Reserve in Champion classes and then we're Grand Champion overall in English Pleasure," Kirk, an 18-year-old River Valley High School graduate, said.

Among the awards Kirk and Lucy received Thursday were second place in Senior Reserve Championship in Western Horsemanship and fifth place in Reserve Grand Championship Western Horsemanship.

Kirk, who lives on a small farm in Three Oaks, said her brother was showing cows in the Beef Barn.

Having ridden Lucy for the past six years, she said that she's learned to "be together and in sync" while riding a horse.

"If you mess up, they're going to mess up," she said.

Peyton Seyfred, who resides with her family in Galien, and her horse, Sparty, had received third place in Reserve Grand Championship Western Horsemanship.

The 9-year-old, who resides in Galien, started taking lessons when four.

"I think it's fun to ride them," she said.

Mom Sara Seyfred said that she goes to other shows on the regional level, such as in Ohio and Indiana.

"She's having a great week - horsemanship is her favorite," she said.

Willoh Whittenburt, an 11-year-old who attends the River Valley School District and resides in Three Oaks, said it's her second year showing a horse at the fair.

On Thursday, she said that she'd gotten two fifth places and a sixth place from some Western Pleasure, which she said is based on the horse, and English Equitation, which is based on the rider and the horse.

"It's just fun to experience the things that

Allison Kirk with Lucy in the River Valley Wranglers stable

Lylah Baker auctions off her turkey during Thursday's turkey auction

Grace German competes in Thursday's pedal pull

Riders and their horses compete in the Equine Complex

Peyton Seyfred celebrates her third place witn with Sparty in Reserve Grand Champion Western Horsemanship

Riders compete in the Equine Complex Thursday afternoon

Emerson Zaremba pets one of the goats at the fair

Hunter and Bradley Warman with their goats, Belle and Sweet Pea

BCYF Royalty are (back) first runner up to the queen Emma Zeiger, Addison Leshman, Queen Audrey Dixon, King Paul Pirri, first runner up to the king Kyle Smith and (front) princess and prince, Addison Leshman and Liam Williams

Emily Gallo and Cloe Monroe hold baby rabbits in the Wonders of Birth exhibit

Ava Ontiveros shows off her Swedish Blue duck, Minni

Youth participate in the swine showmanship Thursday afternoon

Willoh Whittenburt with her horse in the River Valley Wranglers stable

you get to do with the horse and the bonding... It's

nice to have a little buddy that you can do everything with," she said.

Alison Bernard, one of the stable leaders for the River Valley Wranglers, concurred with Whittenburt and Kirk that riding a horse is a partnership.

"A horse is one of the most sensitive animals so, if you're a rider and you're nervous, that horse can feel that...As they (the riders) work with their animals, it definitely increases the bond between them and they become little partners out on the ring," she said.

Currently, River Valley Wranglers has around 20 members.

Bernard said that they're constantly getting new members to replace the ones who have aged out.

"The interesting thing about 4-H is that kids can age out of it, so you've always got, every year, some kids who it's their last year in 4-H and then you've got new kids who are joining 4-H because they're turning 5, 6 or 7 and they're getting interested in horses," she said.

While she believes that, technically, children age out of 4-H when they're 18 or 19, the youth fair allows them to continue showing their animals until they're technically 21.

"So if the kid was a 4-H kid and they're coming to the fair when they're 20 or 21 years old we still keep them inside the club because they were in the club to begin with and we don;'t abandon them," she said.

Members practice out on the farm of the Rossman family, who Bernard said have had the Wranglers "in their heritage" and have run it for years.

"Starting in the middle of June to the last week before the fair, every Thursday night, we have a riding meet out at their farm, so we provide interaction for kids who want to come," she said.

The "Explore Planet Fair"-themed fair, which ran from Monday through Saturday, Aug. 12-17, featured stables full of goats, cows, rabbits, swine, sheep, chicken, llamas, alpacas and horses that were exhibited by Berrien County Youth as well as food, rides, commercial exhibits and live entertainment every night.

# Fire heavily damages house in La Porte

BY STAN MADDUX

A house in La Porte was heavily damaged by fire Tuesday, Aug. 20

Just after 3 p.m., firefighters were called to 305 Niesen St. on the city's northeast side.

Upon arrival, La Porte Fire Chief Andy Snyder said there were flames shooting out from the roof and several windows in the brick-sided one a half story structure.

Initially, Snyder said an attempt was made to fight the flames on the inside of the home but firefighters were driven out by the heavy smoke and advancing flames.

Water was applied strictly from the outside until it was safe enough for firefighters to reenter.

"We made some progress but the conditions were worsening in the back of the house," he said.

Snyder said nobody was inside the home at the time.

It appears a family living there had recently moved out judging by the early findings of the investigation, he said.

About one hour later, the roof toward the back of the home showed obvious signs of potential collapse as the flames began diminishing.

"I'm not going to say it's knocked down but they're just working on some hot spots right now," he said.

Snyder said the fire was reported by a bus driver for TransPorte, which is the city's public transportation system.

There were no indications on what caused the fire but the investigation was still in its early stages.

"I doubt if this will be a repairable house. This looks like it'll be a total loss," he said.

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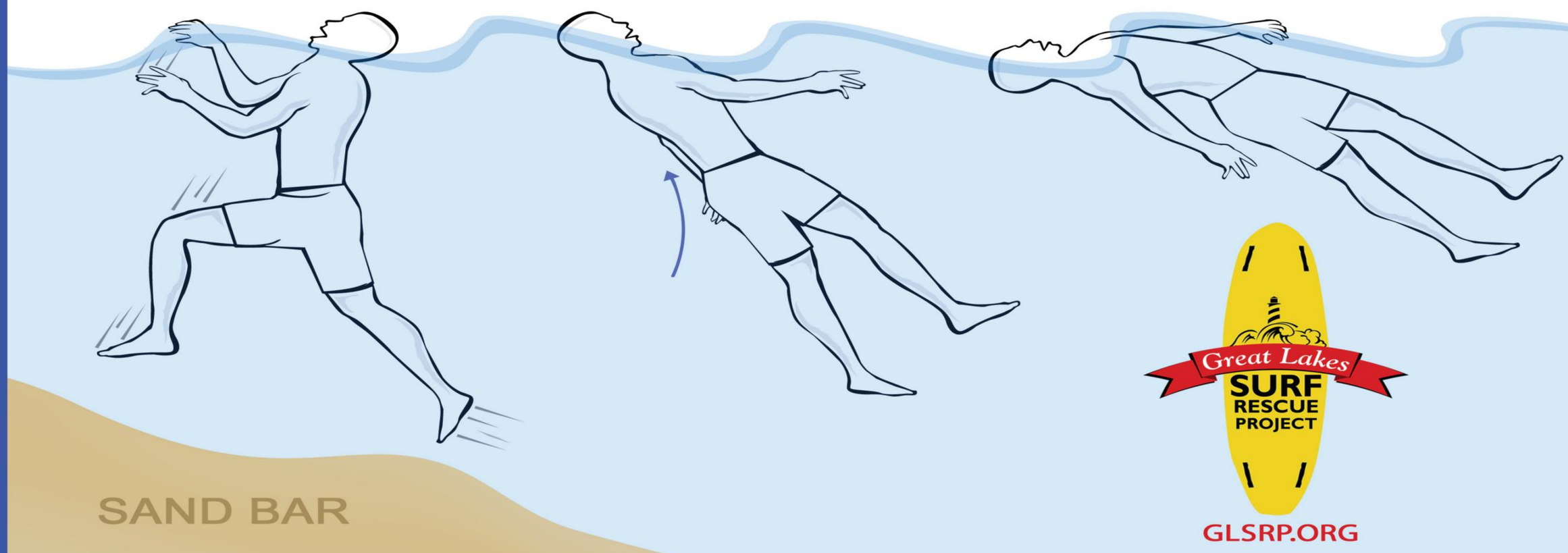
3. Too tired to swim, continue floating and try to signal for help.

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# Farm to table dining experiences at Goldberry Woods

Goldberry Woods in Union Pier is thrilled to announce two exclusive garden-to-table cooking experiences showcasing the freshest ingredients from their on-site micro farm Saturday, Sept. 21, and Friday, Oct. 4

Join Julie and Carly for a fun-filled culinary adventure, featuring unique varieties and heirloom produce. Enjoy grilling vegetables at the innkeeper's house and get a sneak peek into the background of Goldberry Woods.

Discover the flavors of their micro farm, featuring tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, herbs, and more. Learn from expert chefs and indulge in amazing food. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the best of Goldberry Woods.

For more information, contact experiences@goldberrywoods.com or visit www.goldberrywoods.com/specials#experiences. — STAFF REPORTS

# Prison guard charged with accepting inmate smuggling payment

BY STAN MADDUX

A prison guard from the Chicago area is accused of accepting money to smuggle marijuana to an inmate.

Lauren Bush is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with Level 5 felony bribery and Level 6 felony official misconduct.

Bush, 30, of Lynwood, Illinois, was a correctional officer at the prison in Westville when authorities at the penal facility on August 15 received information that an offender was planning to traffic with one of the guards, according to court documents.

Authorities monitoring his telephone calls overheard the inmate request $200 for the marijuana be placed on a cash app belonging an individual later identified as Bush.

The following day, Bush, while reporting for her shift, was questioned and denied any knowledge of a financial transaction involving an inmate or trafficking with the offender at any time in the past.

However, a review of her digital device revealed she received the money discussed in the inmate's monitored phone conversation.

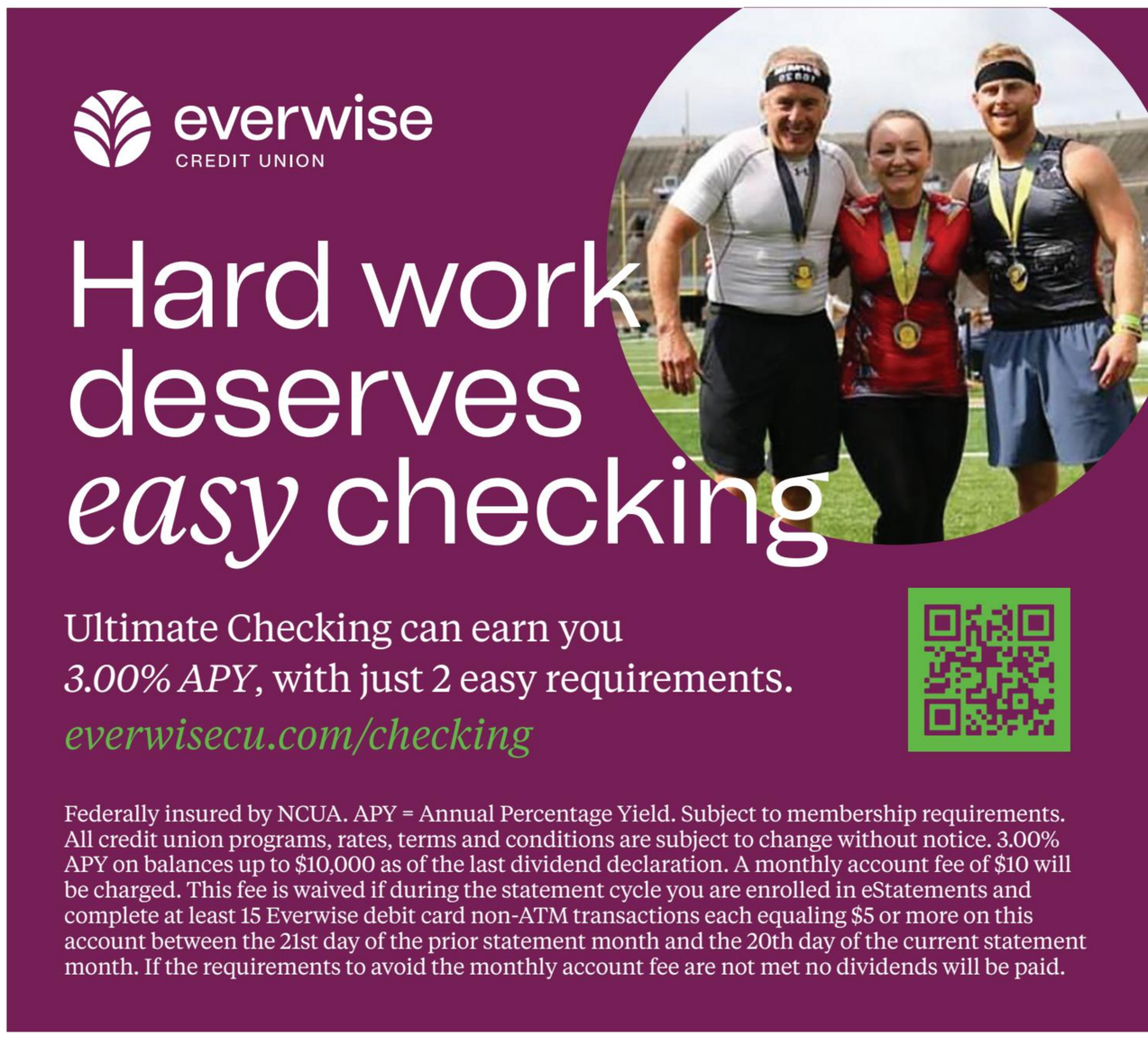
During her initial court hearing on Tuesday, La Porte Superior Court 2 Judge Richard Stalbrink reduced her bond from $15,000 to $1,500.

She was released from the La Porte County Jail later that day after posting bail.

Bush was also ordered to appear for her next court hearing scheduled for August 30.

She could face anywhere from a one to six year sentence on the bribery charge and a six month to 30 month sentence on the remaining count.

The offender allegedly involved in the smuggling attempt serving time for voluntary manslaughter out of Lake County is not scheduled for release until at least 2030.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# OBITUARIES

## Andrew C. Bubb
1972-2024

Andrew C. Bubb, 51, of Aurora, CO died on May 14, 2024. He was a beloved brother, uncle and dog dad.

He was born on August 24, 1972, in Ft. Wayne, IN to Larry and Marceta (Bundy) Bubb.

Surviving is his brother, Gregory Bubb and 2 nieces, Gabrielle Bubb and Lily Elzinga along with his beloved dog, Toby, his brothers Maxwell Luna and Samuel (Denise) Luna as well as his step-mother, Hillary Grifin Bubb. He was preceded in death by his parents as well as his 2 other 4-legged children, Jake and Rudy.

Andrew was a 1992 graduate of River Valley High School in Three Oaks, Michigan, a 1996 graduate of Michigan State University and a 1999 graduate of Ohio Northern University law school.

After law school, Andrew moved to the Denver, CO area to begin his law career as a clerk in the Federal Courts. He later worked for the Burg Simpson Law Firm before opening his own firm where he chased ambulances until his passing.

There will be a celebration of life service held at the Three Oaks (MI) American Legion Post #204 on Friday, August 23, beginning at 5 p.m.

# Son charged in fatal stabbing of father

BY STAN MADDUX

A man has been accused of stabbing his father to death Monday, Aug. 19, in La Porte before being captured in St. Joseph County following a lengthy, high-speed pursuit.

Francisco Camarillo, 29, was charged Tuesday, Aug. 20, in La Porte Circuit Court with murder for killing his father, Valentin Camarillo.

According to court documents, the investigation shows Camarillo was spending the night in a shed in the backyard of his uncle's house at 221 Lawndale Avenue.

The uncle, who gave his nephew permission to stay there overnight, woke up after sunrise to Camarillo pacing in his backyard and yelling.

In response, police said he called his brother and asked him to come get his son.

Police said the victim, after pulling up in his SUV, walked to the backyard and soon began yelling "help me brother. Help me brother. He's going to kill me," according to court documents.

The uncle, Aristeo Camarillo, told investigators he saw Francisco holding his father around the neck and raise a kitchen knife above his head and then lower it in the direction of the victim, who fell to the ground bleeding from the neck area, police said.

Police said the investigation shows the knife with a wooden handle belonged to the uncle and was resting on a barbecue grill or table in the backyard before being grabbed by the suspect.

The victim, who was found by medics covered in blood, was taken to Northwest Health, where he was soon pronounced dead.

According to court documents, the suspect fled in his dad's vehicle to the home of his father at 109 Greenway Street, where he yelled that he killed his father and placed the knife into a kitchen sink.

Francisco fled with the cell phone belonging to the wife of his father after hearing the sirens of police vehicles responding to the home in response to a 911 call.

After tracking her cell phone, the woman told police he was on Indiana 104 heading into Stillwell.

A short time later, officers caught up to Camarillo and tried making a traffic stop but he accelerated, passing a school bus in a no passing zone.

He then led pursuing officers from multiple agencies through Fish Lake, North Liberty and into South Bend before doubling back.

Eventually, he was captured in North Liberty, police said.

According to court records, Camarillo has an extensive criminal history mostly for domestic battery.

His most recent still undecided charges filed in April were for residential entry and public intoxication, court records showed.

Camarillo could face anywhere from a 45- to 65-year sentence.

## OWI IN CHASE ENDING WITH CRASH

A La Porte County man is accused of being drunk while leading police on a short motor vehicle chase that ended with a crash.

Anthony Price, 51, is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with Class A misdemeanor operating while intoxicated and resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 felony.

According to court documents, a police officer Friday, Aug. 16, tried pulling him over for speeding and erratic driving on U.S. 35 between La Porte and Kingsbury.

Police said Price accelerated, though, and exceeded 100 miles per hour before crossing the median and crashing into a guardrail.

His Dodge Ram pick-up truck came to rest in a woods near Hupp Road at the entrance to Kingsbury Industrial Park.

Price, who lives in the Kingsbury area, told the arresting officer he consumed three beers and three rum and cokes prior to getting behind the wheel, according to court documents.

His alleged blood alcohol level was just over .11 percent. — STAN MADDUX

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

# HOROSCOPE

## AUGUST 22-28, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

**ARIES** MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Coworkers and teammates will be much more enthusiastic and boisterous this week, offering you a deeper understanding into their personal perspectives. This is the time to get together and find common ground beyond group projects and deadlines. Company picnics offer just that.

**TAURUS** APRIL 20—MAY 20

It's important to open up to friends this week and let the cat out of the bag so, to speak. Don't hold your problems and emotions in. Start expressing your feelings and stop carrying such a heavy load. Let people know where you're at. Communicate more and the weight will be lifted.

**GEMINI** MAY 21—JUNE 21

Take time to honor your family and their traditions this week. Look for any unusual talents or quirky traits that you may share with distant relatives and investigate further into this person. What you find out may ease some of the outsider type feelings you have towards your family now.

**CANCER** JUNE 22—JULY 22

Open the lines of communication with friends this week. Reach out to people you haven't connected with in a while and share your experiences. Find out what motivates both of you in those successes and set up positive reinforcements with each other. Team work is the dreamwork.

**LEO** JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Seize financial opportunities that group efforts bring. Whether you become part of a buyer's club for a deeper discount or become part of a group that raises money for a cause, you will get more and go further when you get organized with like-minded people. Think more people, more resources.

**VIRGO** AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

There is a lot you have accomplished and the time has come to recognize the progress you have made. Take note of the work you have done before you move on. There are issues that will reappear, that will be handled more efficiently in the future, if you review them now

**LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Take time to honor how you have grown and evolved through introspection and self-discovery over the past few months before, going out with friends. This has been a time of making adjustments and shifting out of difficult patterns and it's important to steer clear of negative drama.

**SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Seize the peace and happiness that friendships bring. Let the connections you have become deeper and more intimate. Let the heart of the matter be more than just talked about; let it be felt. Sometimes the quiet presence of a dear friend is more stimulating than the roar of a busy crowd.

**SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Celebrate the relationships you have with your partner and close friends. Know that the accomplishments you have made in life have been made easier by the shoulders you were able to rest your head on. Take time to tell those close to you how much they have helped you, this week.

.

**CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Seek and you will find. This is the time to look beyond everyday happenings and see a deeper connection between what the heart desires and what happens in life. What we think about is drawn to us; good or bad. Open a space in your life with positive expectation and it will be fulfilled.

**AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

Honor what the heart wants and needs in the relationship department. Don't put off difficult talks or put off reconnecting with your partners and close friends now. Pursue romantic and intimate connections. Turn that heart light on and let yourself be part of something.

**PISCES** FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

This is the week to take care of domestic duties and get things organized at home. Make your space more enjoyable by doing some deep cleaning. When you get clutter cleared and closets organized, you will feel more at ease. Take opportunities to make better arrangements with partners, too.

***The trouble with most people is that they think with their hopes or fears or wishes rather than with their minds.*** — *Will Durant*

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## Sudoku

*Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | 7 | | | | 2 | | |
| | 9 | | | | | 4 | | |
| 2 | | 3 | | | 9 | | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | | | | 2 | | 9 | 4 | |
| | 1 | 9 | | 7 | | | | |
| | 8 | | | | 5 | | 3 | |
| | | 5 | 4 | 3 | | | 2 | |
| | | | | 9 | 7 | 5 | | |

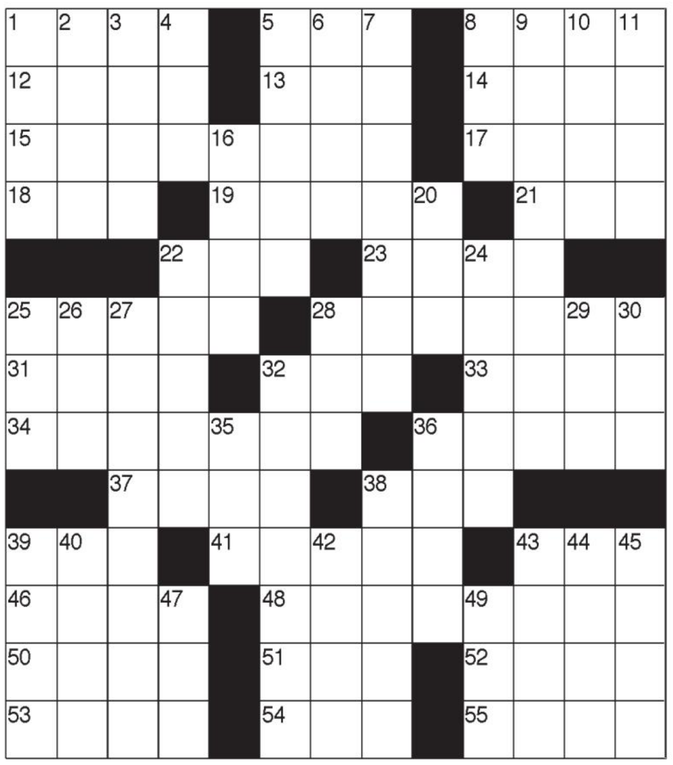
## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 Molding
5 Carriage
8 Sister of Ares
12 Pillage
13 Iodine (pref.)
14 Moses death mountain
15 Premature (2 words)
17 Arabic letter
18 Building wing
19 Small anvil
21 Adjective-forming (suf.)
22 Troops
23 P.I. skirt
25 Song thrush
28 Relaxing of state tensions
31 Seed coat
32 Pasha
33 Academy (abbr.)
34 Stir
36 Macerate
37 Woman's work basket
38 Eth. prince
39 Presidential nickname
41 Refuse
43 Exudate plant
46 Rhine tributary
48 Turco
50 Thunderfish
51 Teacher of Samuel
52 River through Florence and Pisa
53 Fr. pronoun
54 Ancient times
55 Pair

**DOWN**

1 Bone: Gr.
2 Prison: Brit.
3 Ecology (abbr.)
4 Barely get by
5 Odyssey singer
6 Portion out
7 Epic by Homer
8 Alfonso's queen
9 Trust
10 Bird
11 Mild
16 Sweetsop
20 Knot lace
22 Temporary jungle clearing
24 Irish poet
25 Fr. month
26 Scot. alder tree
27 Inner
28 River into the North Sea
29 To (Scot.)
30 Electronic data processing (abbr.)
32 Conscript
35 Kwa language
36 Hall (Sp.)
38 Quick
39 Berne's river
40 Semitic deity
42 False hair
43 Bloodcurdling
44 Arm bone
45 Tone
47 Gelderland city
49 Computer assisted design (abbr.)



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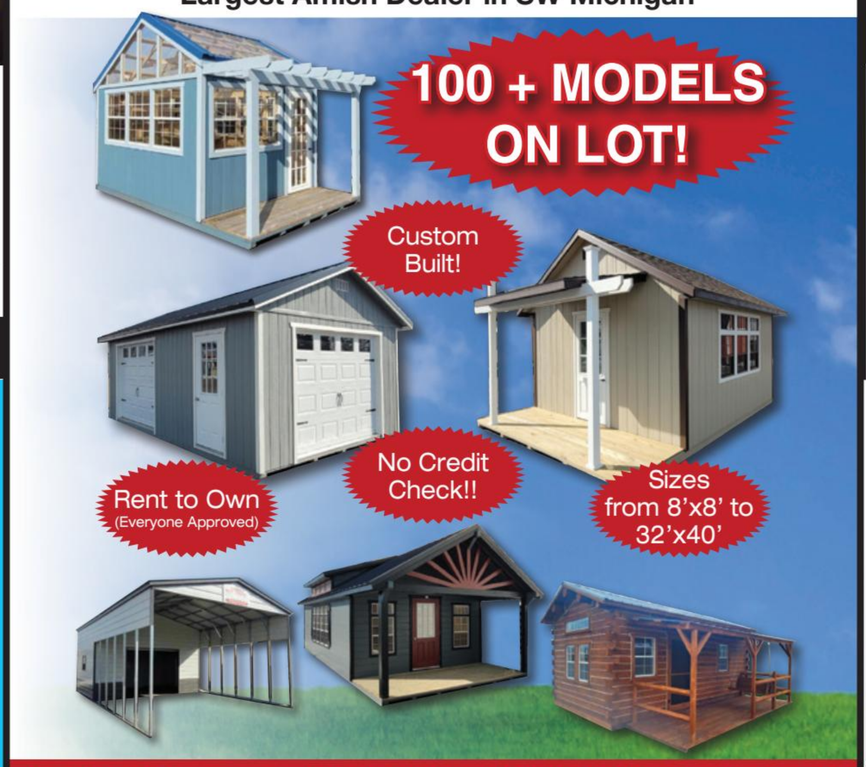

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# Revenge identified as motive in double homicide

BY STAN MADDUX

Revenge was the apparent motive of a man arrested for a Michigan City double homicide.

That's according to the findings of the investigation in the case against Armann Johnson, 26, who's charged in La Porte Superior Court 1 with two counts of murder.

Travis Pennington, 35, and Kiara Hootman, 22, were inside a vehicle when they were shot early Thursday, Aug. 15, in the parking lot of Normandy Village Apartments.

La Porte County Coroner Lynn Swanson said Pennington was shot three times in the head and neck, while Hootman sustained four gunshot wounds to the left arm and back.

According to court documents, the investigation shows Johnson and Hootman were involved in a brief, tumultuous relationship until she left him due to physical abuse.

She moved out of her apartment out of fear of Johnson returning and recently began staying with Pennington, who lived at Normandy Village, police said.

All of the parties involved once worked the same shift together at Hearthside Food Solutions, the maker of baked goods and other edible products on Michigan City's west side.

Johnson, though, was terminated in July and later Pennington based on lack of attendance, police said.

Police said the investigation shows Pennington and Hootman were in the car together so he could take her to her job at the food making plant when roughly a dozen gunshots started ringing out.

It appears the gunfire came about a week after Johnson warned Pennington to stay away from Hootman or be "dealt with," according to court documents.

Johnson, after being let go from the plant, also confronted Pennington and Hootman at job site about their relationship, police said.

With help from a license plate reading camera, police said investigators were able to locate the vehicle belonging to Johnson outside his residence in the 800 block of Pine Street.

The next day, a search of his vehicle and home turned up shards of glass similar to the ones from a passenger side mirror collected from where the victims were parked along with a black cloth gun holster fitted for a semi-automatic handgun, according to court documents.

Police said there was also dirt on the vehicle to explain the tire tracks left by the gunman driving through the grass at the apartment complex after the shooting.

Johnson was ordered to be held in the La Porte County Jail without bond pending the outcome of his initial court hearing, which was scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 20.

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# PET OF THE WEEK

## NALA

**Nala is like a bright ray of sunshine because she is the happiest, most joyful good girl. She will spot you from across the lawn and go into immediate full-body wiggles because she is so thrilled to see you. She is spayed, and up-to-date with her vaccinations. As far as other dogfriends go, Nala has been doing quite well in her playgroups. She is selective, but who isn't? She is good with children over 8, and car rides. Nala just wants to join her new family, fetch tennis balls, and eat treats.**

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Tom Gold speaks to the audience about saving Lakeside Woods

Attendees gather at Lakeside Inn to save Lakeside Woods

# Fundraising efforts begin to 'Save Lakeside Woods'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Fundraising efforts to protect the fragile Lakeside Woods wetlands were jumpstarted during a public meeting at Lakeside Inn in Lakeside Sunday, Aug. 18.

After almost a year-long lobbying effort against the development of the woods, the developer has agreed to sell the land to Lakeside Neighbors Against Development (LNAD) for conservation.

Located in Lakeside, Michigan, on Lakeside Road and Warren Woods Road near the Edward and Elizabeth Leonard Preserves Chikaming Open Lands trail, Lakeside Woods is a 16-acre parcel that's home to 12 acres of wetlands, thousands of species and the endangered Indiana bat.

Tom Gold, who's president of the LNAD Board and vice chair of the Chikaming Township Zoning Board of Appeals, said developer Curtis McDonald had agreed to sell the land for conservation versus continuing his development plan.

"I want everyone to understand that the project has stopped - it's not going forward," he said.

He said McDonald's original concept was to do 725 square foot two bedroom cabins on 18 lots, which Gold said would've been 36 total bedrooms.

The development would've been built on the approximately four or five acres of buildable land that was surrounded by the wetlands, with an easement across the wetlands for the driveway and utilities to go in.

In response to feedback from a Planning Commission meeting held in June, Gold said he changed his plan to 16 three bedroom cottages and "upped the occupancy of 48 bedrooms."

Gold said an anonymous benefactor had put up $300,000 "to start our negotiations." The benefactor pledged to provide a bridge loan for any "shortfalls we might encounter in our fundraising."

The fundraising goal was set at $1.3 million, with McDonald having given LNAD six months to raise the funds. Per the land contract that's in place, LNAD must pay $200,000 a month, which means five more monthly payments are needed.

As of Wednesday, Aug. 21, over $300,000 has been raised in donations.

After discussions with the president of Chikaming Open Lands (COL) and its executive director, Ryan Postema, Gold said that COL thinks it's a "great idea" to give the land to them.

Also discussed was what to do with the around one and half acres of cleared land. Gold said that McDonald had cleared it in March due to an agreement with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to "honor their precautions regarding roosting season for endangered bats that required no tree removal from April 1 to Oct. 1."

"Basically, he cleared the entire road all the way back - the cul de sac in the back and lots one and two," Gold said.

Gold said they envision a "phase two" for the project: Once money is raised for the land itself, work will begin on what to put on the clearing. Plans include a possible nature center to be shared by COL and Chikaming Township that would educate visitors on wetland protection, invasive species and climate change; a botanical garden; an aquatic garden; a retention pond and sculpture installations.

The group is awaiting its letter of determination from the IRS to receive non for profit status. Applications for grants can't be completed without a 501(C)3 status. Gold said that Postema had suggested that they funnel the donations through the Berrien Community Foundation "as a workaround until we get our official status."

Potential future fundraisers were also discussed, such as a giveback dinner, a dinner hosted at someone's home and tours of the land itself.

Meeting attendees were invited to take some postcards and "Save Lakeside Woods" yard signs, which have become ubiquitous in the area.

Volunteer Mary Rose Roberts said that those who want to donate should do so directly at savelakesidewoods.com/donate. Those who want to make a large donation can contact Donna DePaolo, vice president of the LNAD Board, at 630-222-4700.

"If we break it down into small steps, it's going to be more than reasonable and if we continue to succeed in these kinds of fundraising efforts, it's just going to open the community up to doing more - because I think we all can see our open spaces are getting developed," Roberts said.

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